

2022 Policy & Legislative Priorities of the Minnesota Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC)

What's needed?	Why is this issue a priority for JJAC?	What can be done?	Was this accomplished? If not, what progress has been made?	For anything not yet accomplished, what tasks will move this forward, when can they be completed, and who is responsible?
<p>Meaningfully impact the deep and pervasive ethnic, racial and gender disparities in Minnesota's juvenile justice system</p>	<p>Meaningful, fundamental systems change must be governed and measured by reliable and current data. Minnesota has no statewide data system that gathers data consistently, using the same definitions, data points and measures. Thus, a statewide juvenile justice data hub is necessary in order to implement changes and measure the impact of these changes.</p>	<p>Pursue policy and practice changes that will require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data transparency: stakeholders will be mandated to report data on a regular basis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include reports to allow real time tracking of numbers and demographics of youth in detention facilities and correctional out-of-home placements • Development of a statewide data hub that provides consistent definitions and data points for all reported data so that data can be gathered and compared in a meaningful way • Prosecutors' offices to report on: cases charged, diverted, declined, designated EJJ, motioned EJJ, motioned adult certification, and certified to adult court; based on race, gender, age, and offense • Action from juvenile justice stakeholders on racial and ethnic disparities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent changes to the Statewide Supervision System, refer to DOC's Lisa Becking • DOC EJJ data collection and annual report • JJAC's ERD staff position; Legal Rights Center's (LRC) ERD working group, new diversion policy, & pilot • MPD community event in development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reach out to county attorney's association to facilitate the collection of data; JJAC Policy & Partnership (P&P) Subcommittee; Early '22 -Facilitate collaboration between MDE new hire and JJAC's work; P&P; Fall '21 -Support NAMI's BIPOC workforce bill; P&P, Nov '21 -JJAC educate PDs about diversion; JJAC Compliance subcommittee; Early '22

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase diversity training throughout MN ● Initiation of “courageous conversations” with agencies engaging in and/or promoting harmful practices and policies 		
Keep youth out of the juvenile justice system who do not need to be there	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For most youth under the age of 13, the juvenile justice system is not an appropriate or necessary response to offending behavior yet there is no other system that is currently required to respond to, or provide services for, these youth. ● Minnesota needs a clear response set forth by law that handles children 10-12 as those in need of services. Additionally, a funding stream should be established to ensure that the needs of these children are met and the behaviors are addressed in order to reduce further involvement in the juvenile justice system. 	<p>Pursue policy and practice changes that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support community-led problem solving (ie community restorative practices/restorative justice) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fund crisis services and stabilization for children ● Explore alternatives to juvenile justice system referral for youth age 10 -12, including creating a pilot program that would significantly reduce or eliminate referrals to the juvenile justice system for youth under the age of 13 ● Bar admission to secure detention facilities for youth under the age of 13 except in extraordinary and rare cases ● Identify and make available funding to support improved policies and practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide guidelines initiatives for comprehensive preventive health screening access for all youth ○ Design a way to divert Rule 20 youth to RJ process and out of traditional system ○ Promotion of school-based mental health services ○ Promote houseless resources and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LRC’s restorative justice pilot ● Police level diversion 	Educate police about diversion; Compliance Subcommittee; early ‘22

<p>Reduce harm and improve outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system</p>	<p>One way in which we can begin to address the pervasive ethnic, racial and gender disparities in Minnesota’s juvenile justice system is to require the use of validated risk assessment tools across the state to govern admission decisions for all youth detention facility.</p> <p>To protect our youth during the COVID-19 pandemic, all facilities in which youth are placed must be required to follow all health mandates and, whenever possible, youth should be released to lesser-restrictive alternatives.</p> <p>To protect youth referred to the juvenile justice system and to promote a fair and balanced juvenile justice system, Minnesota’s statutes should be amended to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for greater privacy in proceedings involved youth age 16 and 17 charged with felonies (making juvenile hearings closed to the public unless there has been a designation as EJJ or a motion for certification) • Eliminate mandatory predatory offender registration in most, if not all, cases involving juveniles • Eliminate Juvenile Life Without Parole • Emerging mental health issues often involve acting out or aggressive behaviors. 	<p>Pursue policy and practice changes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce youth incarceration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advocate for the development and utilization of alternatives to secure juvenile detention. ○ Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) used for all detention facilities holding youth across MN ○ COVID response for youth in correctional facilities (ensure compliance with health mandates, release for high risk youth) ○ Increase funding for community-based alternatives • Improve conditions for incarcerated youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support revision of Rule 2960 initiated by Department of Corrections to address modification of Disciplinary Room Time (DRT), including Due Process, and Strip Searches, with intent to limit the use of DRT and provide for assurances that individuals in DRT are supervised and cared for with dignity and according to their needs and rights. ○ Modify Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) disqualifications for youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juveniles exempt from predatory offender registration • LRC’s restorative justice pilot • Representative Feist is leading a work group that may champion legislation on statewide use of restorative practices • Refer to DOC’s Inspection & Enforcement Unit (Lisa Becking/Monaie Hebert) for info re: Covid protocol • Refer to DOC’s Inspection & Enforcement Unit (Lisa Becking/Monaie Hebert) for info re: any recent modifications to licensing Rule 2960 and/or how it is enforced. They also oversee procedures for disciplinary measures and work on an ongoing basis with facilities to ensure best practice • DHS workgroup established 	<p>Work with workgroup, and others re: predatory offender registration; P&P subcommittee; early ‘22</p> <p>-JJAC educate PDs about diversion; compliance subcommittee; early ‘22</p>
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<p>Direct funding toward specific reform initiatives that will “change the narrative”</p>	<p>Prioritizing community-centered responses to youth misconduct will reduce rates of system involvement.</p> <p>Youth benefit holistically from culturally relevant, restorative and rehabilitative strategies, led with fidelity to traditional practices, teachings and values.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider pilot projects that explore new strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LRC Hennepin County’s pilot restorative justice/diversion initiative has been successful and is being considered for potential statewide modification and implementation. Could JJAC help advocate for related policy? • Title II funds (subawards) • Rep. Feist restorative justice workgroup 	